



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

### INTERPRETIVE OPINION

Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all buildings and facilities constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-217, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

**Docket:** **DCAB 2000-01:** Interpretive Opinion on ADAAG 4.28.3(6), Visual Alarms, requesting a change in the appliance mounting height from 80 inches above the highest floor level within the space or 6 inches below the ceiling, whichever is lower, to a range of 80 inches to 96 inches above the highest floor level.

**Summary:** Current design practices require the application of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) requirements of 80 inches to 96 inches above the finished floor(AFF), which conflicts with the ADAAG requirements of 80 inches AFF or 6 inches below the ceiling, whichever is lower. The Access Board itself reports that “photometric calculations of lamp intensity for mounting heights of 80 inches and of 96 inches show only nominal differences and can be practically considered to be equivalent.” (Bulletin #2: Visual Alarms, July 1994, page 4; ADAAG Manual: Alarms (4.28)-Mounting Height, July 1998, page 99; Proposed ADAAG, November 16, 1999, Preamble, page 62271).

**Ruling:** For buildings or facilities subject to HRS § 103-50,

#### **ADAAG 4.28.3(6), Visual Alarms - Appliance Mounting Height**

Photometric calculations of lamp intensity for mounting heights of 80 inches and or 96 inches show only nominal differences and can be practically considered to be equivalent. Wall-mounted appliances shall be placed at a range of 80 in (2030 mm) to 96 inches (2440 mm) above the highest floor level within the space.

[Rul: 6/00] (Auth and Imp: HRS §103-50)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call us at 586-8121.

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